



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC Applying for U.S. EPA Brownfield Funding

SACRAMENTO --- The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced that it is seeking a total of \$4.2 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U. S. EPA) to assist with brownfield revitalization activities throughout the state. Brownfield sites are properties that are contaminated or thought to be contaminated, and are often underutilized due to perceived environmental cleanup costs or liability concerns.

“Addressing brownfields is a central piece of the Governor’s Environmental Action Plan. These grants are an important step in turning brownfields into usable land. They are a significant investment in the revitalization of the California economy. We look forward to working closely with local governments on this important issue,” said B.B. Blevins, DTSC Director.

The grants are part of the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act to help states and communities assess and clean up brownfield sites. U.S. EPA’s deadline for brownfield assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund grant proposals for the 2005 fiscal year budget is November 12, 2004.

DTSC is applying for a \$4 million revolving loan fund grant as a coalition partner with the Cities of Sacramento, Los Angeles, and San Francisco to address sites contaminated with hazardous substances and petroleum. Each coalition agency is allowed up to a \$ 1 million grant award. The program is designed to provide funding to capitalize a revolving loan fund and to provide sub-grants to carry out cleanup activities. Loans are funded up to \$200,000 for each site to carry out cleanup activities and to return the properties to productive use.

DTSC is also applying for area-wide assessment grant that would provide \$200,000 to perform an inventory and assess potential hazardous substance release sites in industrial areas of West Sacramento. Grant funds will be used to refine DTSC’s techniques, procedures, and new initiatives to support revitalization of brownfield properties by various redevelopment agencies.

DTSC is also partnering with the City of West Sacramento who is applying for an interrelated grant to assess potential petroleum releases in the same redevelopment area.

The public may provide comments to the draft grant proposals. A copy of the draft proposals are publicly available online at www.dtsc.ca.gov or by calling Megan Cambridge at (916) 255-3727. Public comments must be received by close of business on November, 12, 2004.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.